



Protecting Drinking Water Sources in Lac qui Parle County



Clean Water Funds: 2012

Clean Water Grant	\$53,533
Leveraged Funds*	\$14,875
Total Project Budget	\$68,408

* Leveraged Funds include

Targeted Water:
groundwater

Project Sponsor:
Lac qui Parle Soil and Water
Conservation District

Grant Period:
January 2012—December 2014

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C12-53 - Clean Water Assistance

Project Narrative

Private wells provide drinking water for the rural residents of Lac qui Parle County. This project will retrofit 35 well pits allowing the homeowner to continue using a serviceable well while safeguarding the source of their drinking water.

Well pits, which are similar to a below-ground cistern, were once a common practice to prevent freezing in the winter. Many of these pits remain in use today.

However, well pits are subject to flooding, especially if they are located in a floodplain. Flooding can contaminate the well and groundwater with bacteria from unknown sources. Even when located on the down slope of a hill, well pits may still be subject to flooding from surface runoff. Additionally, well pits harbor vermin such as rodents, snakes, insects, and salamanders - another source of drinking water contamination.



Any type of well has the potential to allow contaminants a direct pathway to pollute groundwater, but these pits situated below ground level are especially hazardous.

Proposed Outcomes:

Retrofit 35 well pits - groundwater

Actual Outcomes:

Project in Progress

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Lac qui Parle County, MN

